

The impact of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) has recently come to my attention through the interference documented by ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI and publicized by ARRL. BPL will devastate the ability of hams to utilize 2-80 MHz in communities where BPL is implemented. The Amateur Radio Service has been nurtured, for almost a century, by the FCC and hams alike, into a service that is law abiding, contentious, emergency/civic service focused, mentoring of new members, qualities hard to find these days in the Enron's, World Coms and even the electric power industry. If our ham frequency bands become unusable due to spurious emissions, many hams will "drop out" and no longer have communications equipment available when needed in an emergency. It is therefore quite likely our country will lose a vital emergency resource if BPL is implemented and nearly a century of effort by the FCC will have been lost.

Then there is also the experimentation nature of hams that pushes the technology envelope that will also be lost. In addition, hams participate in numerous activities with amateur radio that support community and civic (parade, emergency, Boy Scout Jamboree communications, for example). As you should be aware, the equipment is all at individual expense not the taxpayer (albeit there is an indirect cost of not being able to auction HAM designated frequency blocks). These civic functions benefit greatly through the Amateur Radio Service and will also suffer a great loss. I urge the FCC not to approve BPL.